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Fight With a Clergyman.

John Work, in this gossip letter, gives the startling information that a quarrel between Doctor John McLoughlin and Reverend Beaver reached such a point that blows were exchanged and the Beavers left for home.

Fort Simpson, 10th Sept. 1838

My Dear Edward

The Steamer is shortly to start for Nesqualley and as this is the only opportunity I shall have from this out of the way place I gladly avail myself of it to write you and to express my most sincere wishes for the health welfare and prosperity of yourself Mrs. Ermatinger and the little ones. Little in the shape of news has occurred to me since I had last the pleasure of writing you. The occurrences of the place trade etc with which we are accustomed to regale each other in this country can be of little interest to you I shall therefore not trouble you with it further than that affairs go on here as prosperously as can be well expected, and that after a good deal of more trouble from the time I wrote you I got the mutiny on board the steamer quelled and reinstated the Captain in the command which I assure you I resigned with the greatest pleasure imaginable. But I will tell you what I am sure will be more pleasing, that except being occasionally annoyed by my old complaint, I have enjoyed good health, and that the good wife and little ones are also well. I am also in good spirits, tho' some little occurrences have taken place in the way of appointments which have caused me a good deal of chagrin but not depression. But Dear Ned notwithstanding I am in good health old age the unwelcome rogue forces his company on me a great deal more than I wish. The old villain wont be put off I must therefore keep fellowship with him in spite of me. My hair is not yet become grey but it is leaving me at such a rate that I shall soon have little to change colour. My eyesight has declined so much that I can scarcely see to mend a pen with candle light, but thanks to the inventor of steel pens this is a trifling inconvenience. I continue as thin and wizened as ever. When we used to meet I did not smoke and but rarely even join you in a pinch of snuff. Now I am a most inveterate smoker. I much regret taking to this abominable habit and have often resolved to quit it, but resolves are easier made than executed. I have not heard from Frank since I last wrote you, but I hear that he is got rid of the Flat Heads and sent to Fort Hall which if anything at all is only a degree better. Manson is promoted, which strengthens my opinion that Franks turn must soon come, but my friend we must not forget that the former is a Scotchman which in these days is no small recommendation. I have seen the Captain with whom our friend Todd went home last year, from him I was happy to learn that notwithstanding all his misfortunes, the poor fellow was still in good spirits, and had

got his unfortunate partner and child disposed of to his satisfaction, I understand he intended to pass part of the winter with you, so you know all this already.

All my hopes of getting my children educated by the parson and his better half at Vancouver, have vanished the misunderstanding between them and the doctor ran so high as to terminate in blows before they parted in consequence of which, I hear their Reverences go home. Would to God my means admitted of my quitting this wretched country of which I have so long tired, at once and that I was snugly berthed somewhere close by you to reap the invaluable benefit of your experience and good advice, but as it is I must linger on reluctantly some time yet. While I am able to add to my means I am reluctant to leave till I have enough to enable me to live out the few years I have to pass in this world and make some provision for my little ones without entirely depending entirely on what might be made by any business I might be necessitated to enter into, and for which perhaps I might be ill qualified. But be my means what it may on account of getting my children educated I must not defer clearing out long the unanswerable arguments in your last letter have made a great impression upon me. I have a brother in Richimbucto New Brunswick who lately commenced a shop, last year I advanced him some money to assist him to get on, he was but a child when I left home, but from his letters I judge him to be a sensible shrewd man and am in hopes he will do well, he is not married,—perhaps should he be successful perhaps I might get him nearer to your neighborhood to assist me in some business.

Perhaps I may go to Vancouver with the steamer but be assured not as Captain.

Please offer my best respects to Mrs. E., With most sincere good wishes I am My dear Ned

Yours ever sincerely & truly

JOHN WORK.

Edwd. Ermatinger.

American Interference in Canada.

John Work, again writing to his friend, Edward Ermatinger, described his own rugged ideas of religion, and also takes occasion to refer to the Yankees trying to interfere with Canadian affairs.

Steamer Beaver 24th October 1839

My dear Edwd.

I have had the infinite pleasure of receiving your highly valued and friendly favour dated 1st April 38 and more of seeing our friend Tod who speaks in raptures of the country where you are situated, and of the success which has attended you and above all of the high rank you have attained in the estima-